



Discovering a world of independence,
a life of possibilities

PURPOSE

The Mission Project enables capable adults with developmental disabilities to live independently and safely in community with individualized support.

GOALS

Mission Project participants live full lives in a supportive community. They have numerous opportunities for growth and development, including:

- Finding and maintaining meaningful employment
- Socializing with peers
- Learning new skills in a variety of classes, including acting, karate and computer use
- Participating in recreational and cultural activities
- Getting and staying fit and developing healthy, safe lifestyles
- Developing leadership skills and giving back to their community
- Honing social skills and resolving interpersonal challenges

WHO'S INVOLVED

Parents, guardians, families and friends of adults with developmental and cognitive disabilities, as well as dedicated professionals, have joined forces to realize the goals of the project.

WHY MISSION, KANSAS?

The Mission Project, Inc. is based in Mission, Kansas, because it's a well-run community that has jobs, services, entertainment and a community center within walking distance of apartment complexes, decreasing participants' need for transportation.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The first participant moved into her apartment in Mission in summer 2004. As of winter 2017, the project has 20 participants. In 2012 we were excited to expand by welcoming Mission Project 2, which now has 11 participants.
- Families can hire an employment specialist from a licensed agency, who develops jobs and provides job training and ongoing counseling for participants.
- Families can contract with licensed independent living skills providers who offer training and support for their participants.
- Volunteers answer a 24-hour Help Line to provide support and respond to emergencies.
- Frequent social activities promote friendship and build community.
- Drivers provide transportation to and from work, using vans acquired by the Mission Project.
- The iPad Initiative is an innovative program designed to provide participants with iPads and teach them to use the technology to increase their independence, connect with others, develop new interests, further their education and manage their health.
- Participants take a yearly out-of-town trip, for which they plan and save through Mission Project Compass Points.

FUNDING

The Mission Project, Inc., a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit corporation, has two major fundraisers each year, a Kentucky Derby Gala and a golf tournament in the fall. Proceeds from these and future events will go toward transportation and programming costs. The Mission Project also receives some grant money.

GOVERNANCE

The Mission Project, Inc. is led by a board of directors, who work with a steering committee comprising parents and guardians of participants. Board officers: Ed Soltz, President; Kay Webb and Betty Randall, Secretaries; John Pittman, Treasurer.